

# The Catchmark

Newsletter of the Clare County Historical Society

Marty Johnson, Editor

Volume 17 Number 3

Sharing Our Past With the Present.

Fall 2018

## Prepping to Close



**S**aturday, Sept. 29 is not only Old Fashion Day, it's our final day of the 2018 season. That means if you want to tour our exhibits, see a working blacksmith, find out about Spikehorn, play at the new children's table or just sit on our porch and talk, you only have a few Saturdays left!

C'mon out between 1—4 p.m.

## Clare County Historical Society

**O**ur mission is to preserve, advance, and disseminate the history of Clare County.

The Society oversees a complex located at the corner of Dover and Eberhart Roads northeast of Clare, which includes the Dover one-room schoolhouse, Ott Family Log Cabin, Blacksmith Shop and a Museum.

The complex is open Saturdays from 1—4 p.m. through September. We also have photos, books, old newspapers and documents in our archives. Access to these is by appointment. Visit us on [clarecountyhistory.org](http://clarecountyhistory.org) or on Facebook.

## Old Clare County and Odd Michigan

**C**lare County Historical Society Hosts Annual 'Old Fashion Day' Sept. 29, with special guest Mark Jager, author of *Mystic Michigan* series of books.

Some who visit the Clare County Historical Museum complex on Old Fashion Day may think

learning in a one-room schoolhouse, living in a log cabin, using a manual typewriter or needing a blacksmith as "old." But this year's visitors will also learn about

"odd" as Author Mark Jager talks about such things as sinking cities, floating islands, bottomless lakes and

natural underwater passages, along with tornados of fire and green sunsets, natural phenomenon and other oddities that exist throughout the state.

thrilled to get Mark to come and talk to our members and guests," said Carron Nevill, CCHS board member who arranged for his visit.

Gene Bodnar, shipwright, will also give a talk on the H.M.S. Clare, a WWII destroyer that

was named after the City of Clare. Gene recently built a detailed replica of the ship that was given to Great Britain at the start of the war. The recently completed ship is on display at the museum.

Old Fashion Day takes

place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Clare County museum complex. Along with guest speakers, there will be blacksmiths, farm equipment, tractor rides, good food and more.

Admission to the event is only \$3 per person. Children 12 years and under admitted free. Proceeds benefit the museum.

Experience Clare County of Yesteryear at

## Old Fashion Day



Hosted by the Clare County Historical Society

Saturday, Sept. 29, 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.



### Guest Speakers



**MARK JAGER**

Author of *Mystic Michigan* Books



**GENE BODNAR**

Shipwright on the new H.M.S. Clare exhibit

Plus

...exhibits, tours, food, farm vehicles, fire engine and more!

**E**vent takes place at the museum complex, corner of Dover and Eberhart. \$3/person. Children 12 and under are free.

## New Exhibits and Displays Added



**M**useums undergo changes all the time, some of them minor and some substantial. Ours is no exception. We recently added an early 20th century law office when we received a donation of an oak desk that was once used in the

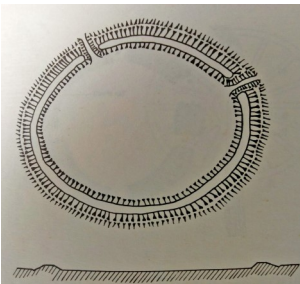
old Clare County Courthouse. Law books from that era and several items from the collection of Judge Jon H. Ringelberg round out the display.

CCHS member Gene Bodnar recently completed a detailed replica of the H.S.M. Clare (formerly the U.S.S. Upshur) a WWII destroyer made from basswood. Gene is a shipwright of national renown, whose ships—generally sailing vessels—are displayed in museums and private collections. This is the first modern vessel he has built and it took more than 100 hours to complete it.



It's beautiful and currently on display. We also are in the process of installing an exhibit on gangsters in Clare County with a focus on The Leebove murder that took place at the Doherty Hotel in 1937. We hope to have it installed by Old Fashion Day.

## Indian Mound Walk is Oct. 13 (Honest!)



**W**e've talked about it for two years. We've written about it for two years. We've planned it and cancelled it, twice. NOW, it

going to really, actually happen.

Rain or shine. Snow or hail. Doesn't matter. We're **going** to the Missaukee Mounds in Missaukee County. The trip is Saturday, Oct. 13.

We will meet at the Harrison Moose parking lot on Old 27 north of Clare at 10 a.m. to carpool and will be back in the early afternoon. Participants must be able to walk about a mile on trail to get to the mound.

There is no cost and reservations are not required. Maps are available for those who do not want to carpool. Questions? Email the Historical Society at [museum@clarecountyhistory.org](mailto:museum@clarecountyhistory.org) or contact Marty at 734-755-2638.

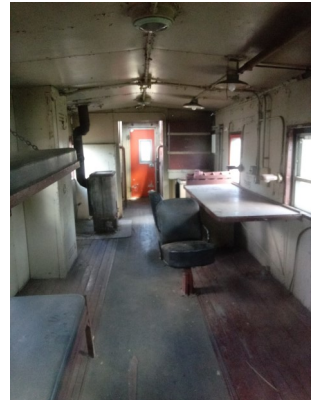
## Clare Depot Opens This Fall (Honest!)

**T**he Clare Railroad Depot will open sometime in early fall. The opening has been delayed because the contractor, who donates his labor, has been busy with jobs that pay his bills, but that will soon change.

The Clare Chamber of Commerce is scheduled to move into the building and the Clare County Arts Council will use the lower level. A small gift shop will be installed and groups can rent the building at a nominal cost.

This summer, a second caboose, this one all-steel, was installed on the site. The caboose was a donation with the stipulation it be picked up ASAP. It will be used for storage. The first caboose, which is all wood, will eventually serve as a small museum.

A grand opening for the depot will be announced by the City of Clare in the near future.



## Updates and Additions



**O**ur museum complex has a new storage building, front door on the schoolhouse, ramp at the

Ott Family Cabin and a new wagon to transport visitors. These are just a few of the many changes that have taken place this year, thanks to our volunteers and financial support.

The building now



holds our lawnmower and other maintenance equipment we were storing in the museum. Now a portion of the space is being used for additional exhibits—like our newly installed early 20th century law office and a phone booth

The new oak door on the school matches one that showed in photos of the 1930s and replaces a modern and (rather unattractive) one.

The ramp is designed to give those with physical challenges easier access to the cabin. In the past, it was necessary to lift wheelchairs and walkers over a rather



high lip at the rear doorway.

The new is much sturdier and will make for a welcome addition on Old Fashion Day.

Oh, and thanks to a generous and anonymous CCHS member, Grant Township has a new sign at its township hall that shows the correct year of 1870 the township was established. The

old sign showed 1894, which was way off. Historical accuracy is important and can be a source of pride!



## Join (or Renew) With Us!

**I**f you are not a member, we invite you to join. Membership is only \$10 per calendar year—unless you are 80 or older in which case your membership is free! (but we still ask you mail in the form).

**Join or renew now and**

**your membership is valid through Dec. 2019.**

Your support allows us to run our museum complex, publish our newsletters, host our website and run events and promote our history within our county and around the region, tell its

stories and protect its artifacts.

Providing your email address, will make it possible (in the future) to share information on a more frequent basis and also send our newsletter. Your email address is NEVER shared and you can always opt out.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐

**New**

☐

**Renewal**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐

**Qualify for a Free Membership**

**Address 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

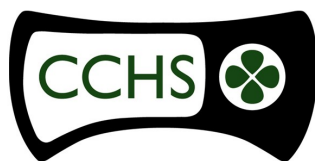
**City/Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total enclosed\***

Make checks payable to: Clare County Historical Society  
and mail them to  
CCHS, c/o Jon H. Ringelberg, Treasurer  
3062 E Colonville Rd  
Clare, Michigan 48617-9448

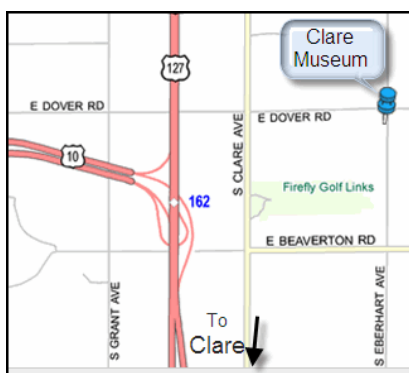
*\*Donations over \$10 will be used to improve our museum complex and promote local history. CCHS is a 501(c)3 organization and your donation may be tax deductible.*





CLARE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

c/o Jon H. Ringelberg, Treasurer  
3062 E Colonville Rd  
Clare, Michigan 48617-9448



Our museum complex is at 7050 S Eberhart Rd. at Dover, five miles north of Clare.

Like us on Facebook!



Questions, comments? Email  
[museum@clarecountyhistory.org](mailto:museum@clarecountyhistory.org)

## New History Videos



**L**ocal historian Dr. Liam McEwan is hosting a series of local history videos on You Tube to help promote Clare County history. Not familiar with Dr. Liam? That might be because he's Liam Henry, son of Angela Kellogg, and Barry Henry.

Angela is an active CCHS member and Liam is an active 4th grader. They volunteered to create the videos and hopefully bring history alive. Videos on Spikehorn, the HMS Clare and an old railroad north of Harrison have been created and a few more are planned.

A link to the videos can be found on our Facebook page or by going to You Tube and conducting a search for "Dr. Liam McEwan." We hope you enjoy them.



## Ever Hear of Upton?

**CCHS** member Andy Coulson has been on a search for the former town of Upton that was somewhere in the northwest part of the county. He and member Jon H. Ringelberg have had an ongoing discussion about whether it was the same settlement as Jonesville or if they were two separate places. We do know that Upton disappears from all maps after 1903.

There's also a question of just WHERE Upton was located. Old maps are not of any great help. Of the maps Andy located, 19 of them show Upton on the west side of the Muskegon River and 5 put the town on the east side of the river. Soooo, where was it located and was it the same town as Jonesville? If you have the answer, please let us know.

And while we're at it, do you know where Mostellerville was? Up until recently we thought it was in Hayes township near Mosteller Creek, but now evidence has come to light that shows it may have been in Hamilton Township. So many questions...